

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An alignment device to guide the tongue of a trailer toward the hitch ball of a tow vehicle comprising:

a generally horizontal base plate, a generally vertical back plate attached to the base plate, an opening for receiving a hitch ball to hold the base plate to a hitch post and engagement means formed in at least one of the base plate and the back plate to engage a hitch post and thereby prevent rotation of the alignment device upon impact with a trailer tongue.

2. The alignment guide of claim 1, wherein the engagement means comprises a recessed channel formed in the base plate and configured to engage a hitch post and maintain the orientation of the alignment device by engagement with a hitch post.

3. The alignment guide of claim 2, wherein the recessed channel is between 1/4 and 3/4 inches deep.

4. The alignment guide of claim 1, further comprising a cutout in the base plate or back plate configured to receive a hitch post.

5. The alignment device of claim 1, further comprising an aperture formed in the base plate to accommodate the ball of the tow vehicle hitch.

6. The alignment device of claim 1, wherein the back plate is curved so as to partially surround a drop hitch ball and thereby to guide the tongue of a trailer or towed vehicle toward the ball hitch.

7. The alignment device of claim 1, wherein the engagement means comprises a flange which extends downwardly beyond the base plate.

8. The alignment device of claim 1, further comprising a plastic covering disposed on the base plate.

9. An alignment device to guide the tongue of a trailer toward the hitch ball of a tow vehicle comprising:

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a generally horizontal base plate;  
generally vertical back plate attached to the base plate;  
and  
a flange extending downwardly from at least one of the  
base plate and the back plate to limit rotation of the  
alignment device.

10. The alignment guide of claim 9, further comprising a covering to protect the back plate from scratches and small dents.

11. The alignment guide of claim 10, wherein the covering is constructed out of plastic which is molded to correspond to the shape of the back plate.

12. The alignment guide of claim 9, wherein the flange is between 1/4 and 3/4 of an inch.

13. The alignment guide of claim 9, wherein the flange is formed by the back plate.

14. The alignment guide of claim 9, wherein the base plate has a cutout.

15. The alignment device of claim 14, wherein the cutout in the base plate is configured for sliding the base plate under a ball of a ball hitch so as to mount the alignment device without complete removal of the ball hitch.

16. An alignment device to guide the tongue of a trailer toward the hitch ball of a tow vehicle comprising:

a generally vertical back plate attached to a generally horizontal base plate, the base plate having a channel formed therein for receiving a hitch post.

17. The alignment device of claim 15, wherein the channel extends upwardly into the base plate between 1/4 and 3/4 of an inch.